



Kurt E. Floren

Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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Richard K. Iizuka
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DATE: April 19, 2012

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman, Third District
Supervisor Gloria Molina, First District
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District
Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District

FROM: Kurt E. Floren 
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

SUBJECT: **STATUS OF HACIENDA HEIGHTS CITRUS GREENING DISEASE AND
ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID SITUATION**

Since my previous update dated Friday, April 4, we have continued to work closely and cooperatively with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to limit potential losses to commercial and residential citrus due to the citrus disease known as huanglongbing (HLB), or citrus greening.

To date, only a single tree in the county has been confirmed to have been infected with HLB, located at the site at which the original HLB-infected Asian Citrus Psyllids were collected. There have been no new confirmations of HLB presence at other sites. An intensive survey of local citrus trees, including trapping, visual assessments, and collection of samples of Asian Citrus Psyllids (ACP) and plant tissue, has been conducted to determine the source and extent of any HLB infestation. All properties within a one-half mile radius area have been sampled and samples continue to be collected throughout a 5-mile radius area for analysis. An investigation is ongoing, being conducted by the Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance Program within USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), to determine, if possible, how the tree was infected and if trees in other locations may have been infected.

The 93 square-mile quarantine depicted in my previous update is in effect.

CDFA has treated citrus trees within 800 meters of the detection site. Treatment includes applying the pesticides cyfluthrin and imidacloprid to host plants and soil utilizing hand-held sprayers. CDFA informed each property resident prior to such treatment. No aerial applications are being considered. Staff of ACWM's Environmental Protection Bureau, Pesticide Use Enforcement Program, performed monitoring of applications and enforcement of pesticide use laws and regulations. Cooperation from area residents has been outstanding in voluntarily permitting access to their properties to perform treatment and sampling work.

Together with members of my staff and personnel from CDFA and USDA, I have been attending public meetings and working with news media outlets to further inform the public about these efforts and how residents can help fight the spread of HLB and prevent the introduction of other pests. ACWM, CDFA, USDA and the California Citrus Research Board have formed a HLB Joint Information Center and are working to finalize a comprehensive communications plan, outlining goals, strategies, targeted audiences, and modes for maximum effectiveness in distributing educational material about the control of ACP and eradication of HLB. Provisions include utilization of print, broadcast, and social media resources, enhanced Web coverage via Los Angeles and other County Agricultural Commissioner sites, county farm bureaus, and industry partners, as well as printed materials in multiple languages to ensure effective outreach to all communities.

Please note that residents may be directed to call the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899 if they believe that they have found a specimen of ACP, any other exotic insect pest, or observed symptoms of HLB.

We will continue to inform the respective City Managers and your Board offices in the areas involved to enable staff to answer questions from the public.

I will continue to update you as details become available and warrant an update.

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Georgia Mattera, Public Safety Cluster
Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer
Board Deputies